Geoffrey Turnovsky Joins FIS Faculty

The Division of French and Italian Studies would like to welcome Geoffrey Turnovsky, Assistant Professor of French, to our program. Professor Turnovsky comes to us from Ohio State University where he was an Assistant Professor of French, and prior to that a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for the Penn Humanities Forum at the University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Turnovsky received his PhD from Columbia University in 2001, and his specialty is the literature and cultural history of 17th- and 18th-century France. His current research focuses on the evolving institutional contexts of intellectual careers in this period and his recent publications include articles on Corneille, Diderot, Rousseau, as well as on marginal writers and the literary market in the late 18th century. His research has appeared in SVEC, Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture, and Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Since joining the Division in autumn 2006, Professor Turnovsky has taught courses on “17th Century: Politics, Pastimes, and Poetics of Court Society,” “The Reality Effect: Illusions of Prose Fiction in the Old Regime,” and “Doubt, Satire, and Critique: Old Regime Revolutions in Thinking.”

We are thrilled to have Professor Turnovsky on board!

Nesholm Endowment

On October 4, 2006, the Division of French and Italian Studies hosted a celebration for the new French Studies Nesholm Family Endowed Fellowship at the UW Club. The reception gave FIS faculty and graduate students an opportunity to thank the Nesholms in person for their generous donation. The gift to establish the fellowship was made by Laurel and John Nesholm, who realize the importance of language learning as an asset to the understanding of cultural differences in a global society. The new fellowship is specifically intended for the support of graduate students in French Studies, and in 2007 funded the research efforts of Laureta Mema, Insook Webber, and Yuqiu Meng. Laureta Mema was able to do dissertation research in Paris, and Yuqiu Meng used her Nesholm support to attend the MLA conference in Chicago, December 2007. The Nesholm fellowship also enabled Insook Webber to present her paper “In Praise of Impotence: A philosophical reading of Stendhal's Armance” at the New York University Institute of French Studies "Regime Change: The social and cultural origins of political transformation in France" conference, in November 2007.

The Nesholm Family's generous support will help UW French Studies to continue to provide our graduate students with a broad background in French literature and culture, as well as train them to be among the very best in cutting-edge academic research.
Graduation Gala 2006

In honor of our GRADUATES, countless rounds of applause! We salute you in the knowledge that immeasurable amounts of energy and dedication have been put forth in earning your degrees from the University of Washington.

In our wish to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating French and Italian students the annual Graduation Gala was held at the Waterfront Activities Center. Family and friends of graduating seniors, along with faculty and staff, gather together to eat, drink, and be merry. Community businesses chipped in with gift certificates for the students with top honors.

We hope that each student will leave the UW with fond memories and a solid education that will serve them long and well in everything they choose to undertake in life.

Warmest regards and best wishes to one and all from Italian and French Studies!!!

-Sabrina Tatta, Academic Adviser

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French Studies Bachelor of Arts Degrees Awarded, 2005-2006

Lindsey Aakre
Karina Aebersold
Dorothy Arnold
Elisabeth Arnold
Malia Benitez
Sara Bernardini
Darya Bondarenko
Emilie Bridon
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Britnee Traxinger
Megan Walter
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Lisa Yamaguchi
Zablong Yang

Italian Studies Bachelor of Arts Degrees Awarded, 2005-2006

Dana Hasson
Leah Jensen ♠
Michael Russell ♠♠
Britney Williams ♠
Vanja Skoric ♠♠

The Division of French and Italian Studies wishes to thank the following local businesses for their generous gift donations for this year’s Graduation Gala:

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- Eastlake Galleries Incorporated
- Seattle Opera
- Tutta Bella

- ♠ Department Honors
- ♠♥ Recognition of Academic Excellence
- ♠♠ Magna Cum Laude
- ♥ Entering M.A. program in FIS
- ♠ Invited to join Phi Beta Kappa
- ♠♠ Cum Laude

Master of Arts Degrees Awarded, 2005-2006

Philippe Bodi—French Studies
James Terry—French Studies
Monica Tompkins—French Studies
Graduate Conference: “Faith, Knowledge & Interface Epistemologies”

Several FIS graduate students and TAs participated in “Faith, Knowledge and the Interface of Epistemologies,” a graduate conference for interdisciplinary studies at the University of Washington, May 4-5, 2006. This conference was co-organized by Lisa Connell (French Studies), William Mitchell (Comparative Literature), and Patrick Blaine (Comparative Literature). FIS graduate students and TAs presented the following:

**Erik Anspach** (Teaching Assistant in French) “The House of Yes: Girard and a Contemporary Theater.”

**Valentina Nocentini** (Graduate Student in Italian Studies) “Il principe ‘umanista’ nella Filippica 1 di Alessandro Tassoni,” at “Politics and Persuasion,” the 15th annual GSO Colloquium sponsored by Indiana University’s Department of French and Italian Graduate Student Organization (GSO), April 7-9, 2006 in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Otilia Baraboi** (Graduate Student in French Studies) “Towards a History of Performative Encounters: Assia Djebar’s La disparition de la langue française.”

**Fabrizio Ciento** (Teaching Assistant in Italian Studies) “Rethinking Neorealism: The Logic of Ellipsis and Shifting Present in Salvatore Giuliano.”

**Lisa Connell** (Graduate Student in French Studies) “Alienation in the First Person Singular and Plural in Maryse Conde’s Le cœur a rire et a pleurer.”

**Jennifer Hefti** (Teaching Assistant in French Studies) “The Concept of Resistance to Power in Michel Foucault’s works.”

**Delphine Gras** (Teaching Assistant in French Studies) “Music and Public Spheres: The Death of Rhythm and Blues?”

**William Mitchell** (Teaching Assistant in French Studies) “The Production of a Memory: Visualizing an Archive.”

**Jennifer Myers** (Teaching Assistant in Italian Studies) “Moglie e Buoi dei Paesi Tuoi: The Interface of the Church, State and Cinema Under Fascism.”

**Nicla Riverso** (Teaching Assistant in Italian Studies) “From Magic to Science.”

**Virginia Agostinelli** (Graduate Student in Italian Studies) - “Una dissimulazione onesta: La Citta’ del Sole di Tommaso Campanella” (“An Honest Dissimulation: The City of Sun of Tommaso Campanella”), “Politics and Persuasion,” the 15th annual GSO Colloquium sponsored by Indiana University’s Department of French and Italian Graduate Student Organization (GSO), April 7-9, 2006 in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Otilia Baraboi** (Graduate Student in French Studies) presented, “Pedagogy, History and the Production of Knowledge in Assia Djebar’s L’amour, la fantasia” at “Entradologos 2006–Turns, Returns, Detours: (Hi)story and (Re)presentation,” a Romance Studies Graduate Student Conference, Cornell University, February 10-11, 2006.


**Greta D’Amico** (Teaching Assistant in Italian Studies), has received a fellowship for 2006-2007, through the University of Geneva-UW exchange program.

**Lisa Friedl-Clapié** (Graduate Student in French Studies) has several forthcoming publications: “Undercurrents of Mammy Wata Symbolism in Buchi Emechea’s The Joys of Emecheta’s The Joys of Life,” Phileologica Papers, issue 53, 2006 (West Virginia University).

Book review on Camus l’Algérien by Ali Yédes published in La Francofonia, issue 14, 2006 (University of Cádiz, Spain).

“L’Exotisme et la femme féline dans les Amants de Marrakech d’Ahmed Ismaili.” Article accepted for publication in La Revêle marocaine : écrivains actuels du Maroc, Editions la source, Toronto, Canada.


“Des rêves et des assassins: L’immanence de la mer(e) dans le roman de Malika Mokeddem.” Article accepted for the November 2006 PAMLA conference in Riverside, CA.

**Yuqiu Meng** (Graduate Student in French Studies) presented “Ambiguous Surrender: The Death of the Lady of the Camelias” for the May 19, 2006, Faculty/Graduate Colloquium in FIS.

**Valentina Nocentini** (Graduate Student in Italian Studies) - “Il principe ‘umanista’ nella Filippica 1 di Alessandro Tassoni,” at “Politics and Persuasion,” the 15th annual GSO Colloquium sponsored by Indiana University’s Department of French and Italian Graduate Student Organization (GSO) April 7-9, 2006 in Bloomington, Indiana.

**James Terry** (Graduate Student in French Studies) will present a paper called “L’Ouie, Love, and Marriage in Marie de France’s Laüstic,” at the South Atlantic MLA conference, International Courtly Literature Society section, Charlotte, NC, November 10-12, 2006.
Otilia Baraboi, and Valentina Nocentini was made possible by funding support from the UW Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation.

*Additional support for Agostinelli and Nocentini’s travel was made possible by the Friends of Italian Studies Fund.

*Travel for Lisa Connell was provided by the Eugene Vance Endowed Fund, and the Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation.

Additional support for Baraboi’s travel was provided by the Friends of French Studies Fund.

Vicki Wilson (Graduate Student in Italian Studies) received a FLAS Fellowship to study German at the Goethe Institute in Freiburg, Germany from June 6 through August 31, 2006.

*Travel for Virginia Agostinelli,

Undergraduate News

Julia Holter, (BA in French Studies) will be joining our Masters program in French studies this fall. Julia wrote an Honors thesis under the direction of Prof. Evelyne Ender, titled “Plaisir et désir dans Zazie dans le métro de Raymond Queneau.”

Desiree Olson (French major, pictured) was nominated for membership of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, an organization dedicated to recognizing outstanding achievement among first- and second-year college students, while encouraging involvement in community service and leadership activities.

Vanja Skoric, (BA in Italian Studies) will be joining our Masters program in Italian Studies this fall.

Midnight Oil: Recent Faculty Publications, Papers, & Activities

Denyse Delcourt, Associate Professor, French


Evelyne Ender, Professor, French


Invited by researchers at Université de Lyon to speak about the interdisciplinarity (“Questions de mémoire: une invitation à l’interdisciplinarité.”) Groupe d’études LIRE. Institut des Sciences de l’Homme. Université de Lyon II. January 2006.

Article—“A feeling of ‘déjà-vu’: memory-science in Gérard de Nerval and Marcel Proust.” Science in Context (special issue on literature and science), 18 (4), 2006.

Was a Fellow at the Simpson Center for the Humanities, where she continued research on questions of autobiography and gender. In this context, presented work in progress- a chapter for a collection of essays on Henry James, “Unwrapping the Ghost: The Design behind Henry James’s The Wings of the Dove,” in Companion to Henry James, Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture, ed. by Greg Zacharias, forthcoming.


Participated in the roundtable organized by the Modernist Studies Group, May 22, 2006, and spoke about Marcel Proust’s petite madeleine and tasse de tilleul, performing the memory experiment he devised.

Susan Gaylard, Assistant Professor, Italian

Received “Unsung Hero Award” from UC Berkeley: chosen by undergraduates out of over 4000 campus-wide student nominations, one of 200 awards. November 2005.

Midnight Oil: Recent Faculty Publications, Papers, & Activities (continued)

Presented paper “Castiglione’s virtuous women, shifty men, and their monuments,” at the joint American Association for Italian Studies / American Association of Teachers of Italian Convention in Genoa, Italy, May 2006.

Invited by UW Italian Advisory Board to present public lecture, “Public image from Aretino to Arnold: what does Renaissance clothing have to do with Governor Schwarzenegger?” UW, December 2005.

With Holly Waddell and in collaboration with other FIS faculty and with FIS funding, initiated “Preparing for the Profession” program of workshops (backed by FIS-funded reading material) for FIS grad students and TAs.

Workshops so far have covered time management and research, professional preparedness and conference participation, MA and PhD exam preparation, the job search, and dissertation writing.

Invited to give talk on “Renaissance Representations” at UW Architecture School, as part of Rome program preparation seminar, April 2006.


Will give talk on article in progress at FIS faculty/graduate colloquium (June 2nd, 2006).

Giuseppe Loporace, Senior Lecturer, Italian

*Ginestra di Spagna.* A collection of 12 short stories, under consideration for publication by Rubbettino Editori, Soveria Mannelli (Catanzaro), Italy.

*L’ingegneria e Marianosa.* A historical novel under consideration for publication by Aagliano Editore, Salerno, Italy.

The World at Play in Boccaccio’s Decameron, by Giuseppe Mazzotta. Translation into Italian, submitted for publication to Rizzoli editori, Milano, Italy.

Louisa Mackenzie, Assistant Professor, French


“The ‘Pestilentially Ambitious’ Figure of Julius Caesar in the Essays of Michel de Montaigne.” In *Julius Caesar in Western Culture,* edited by Maria Wyke (Oxford: Balckwell, 2005).


“Poetic Mapping Historicized,” article engaging recent articulations between literature and cartography, based on recent archival research, to be submitted to *PMLA* or *Diacritics*.


Claudio Mazzola, Senior Lecturer, Italian

Presented two papers at the American Association of Teachers of Italian in Washington, D.C., October 2005, “A cinema in search of an identity,” and “Teorema: il cinema secondo Pier Paolo Pasolini.”

“Five Italian Cities: from Renaissance Civic Pride to Postmodernism” - set of five Wednesday lectures organized by the Simpson Center and the Seattle Arts and Lectures, Spring 2006.


Hedwige Meyer, Senior Lecturer, French

Adaptation of *Rond Point* textbook, workbook, video manual and instructor’s guide to the U.S. market for Prentice Hall, July 2006.

Presented “Teaching Language Differently: Task-based Language Learning,” at the May 19, 2006, Faculty/Graduate Colloquium in FIS.

Albert Sbragia, Associate Professor, Italian

Co-editor with Lance Rhoades, Fellini’s Cultural Legacy, under consideration by University of Illinois press.

Vinay Swamy, Assistant Professor, French


Giuseppe Tassone, Lecturer, Italian

First-year Italian language textbook (Prentice Hall Company), in progress.

Holly Woodson Waddell, Visiting Lecturer, French

With Susan Gaylard and in collaboration with other FIS faculty and with FIS funding, initiated “Preparing for the Profession” program of workshops (backed by FIS-funded reading material) for FIS grad students and TAs.

Workshops so far have covered time management and research, professional preparedness and conference participation, MA and PhD exam preparation, the job search, and dissertation writing.
It was the second week of April when the victorious students were ready to return to class. A second major manifestation, this one against Prime Minister Villepin’s politically suicidal attempt to rejuvenate the stagnant youth labor market, the CPE (contract première embauche), had been a success. It required blockaded trains, smashed windows and overturned cars, and the shutting-down of universities and lycées but, in the end, the government backed down. French youths everywhere were euphoric that their mobilization had coerced such a volte-face and no one seemed much concerned that the youth unemployment rate still remained above twenty percent. Three weeks of abandoning studies, the status quo preserved, it was time for a well-deserved two weeks of spring holidays.

L’exceptionnalité française. It’s certain that I’ll never understand this peculiar state of mind in all its permutations and apparent contradictions. It seems to me, nonetheless, to have something to do with certain notions of dignity, individualism and personal autonomy curiously juxtaposed with conformity, and with an unflagging belief in the ability of France to forge an enlightened and moral alternative to the rough beast of globalization that is not so surreptitiously slouching towards l’hexagone. This sense of exceptionality furthermore seems to reveal an inherently conservative impulse—rejected is a vision of the world in which cultural singularities are effaced and individual destiny is made prey to the whims of the market, while affirmed and reaffirmed is the conviction that French social and economic models can and do work in the twenty-first century. So while none of these students took to the streets en masse in November to protest in the name of human solidarity and against institutionalized racism and economic inequality, they seemed to sincerely believe that in protesting against the CPE they were engaging in an essential battle to preserve what they consider to be inviolable social protections. Though try as I did to understand their zeal, I couldn’t help but feel bemused when, during the first week of nationwide protests, a group of students came to politely inform me that they had to miss my course to go on strike in order to avoid la précarité—it certainly wasn’t mai soixante-huit.

The major event of the year, though, was the riots that raged through many low-income, minority populated banlieues in November, leaving much of the country frightened and perplexed—and flooding the île de France with riot police. The ostensible spark for this vitriolic display was the accidental death in a Paris suburb of a fourteen year-old boy—by all indications he had done nothing illegal—who fled from an approaching group of police officers and was later electrocuted trying to hide from them in a substation. Long-repressed anger towards the police and State, fueled, in part, by absurdly high unemployment rates in the cités, police discrimination, and by exclusion from mainstream French society, exploded in burning cars and violent skirmishes between police and young, male “demonstrators,” the majority being of Sub-Saharan- and North-African origin. When I asked students what they believed the causes of these intensifying hostilities to be, most responded that it was merely violent individuals bent on destruction who were seizing the opportunity that nationwide visibility provided to be seen. Media coverage certainly seemed to have a role in perpetuating the violence, but there was a general tendency—repeated in several classes—to brush aside suggestions that the State’s failure to adequately integrate citizens of immigrant origin into mainstream society and to provide cité residents with viable economic opportunities were at least partially responsible. Racism and inequality were rarely mentioned in these discussions; it seemed they were mostly concerned with the hyperbolic reports in American and British newspapers that created the impression that France was burning to the ground—which was true enough. But the silences in these classes—by students mostly from Paris and some of its reasonably affluent suburbs—loudly suggested that large-scale social change was not a cause they felt obliged to support.

But beyond social unrest and the superficial half-measures taken to improve opportunities for its marginalized citizens—not to mention its apparent lack of collective and critical self-reflection—, France has, for me, remained quite exceptional. I needn’t mention the food (and I did eat steak tartare for the first time; even enjoyed it), but what has struck me most deeply, as if for the first time, is the savoir vivre: the accretion of small pleasures during a long meal, leisurely strolls through any of the numerous jardins, long
Study Abroad Experiences: A Letter From Versailles (continued)

Hemingway’s oft-repeated saying goes, is a moveable feast, something I discovered once again last evening as I dined with a colleague in the receding sunlight outside a café between the Panthéon and Jardin du Luxembourg. On a delightful spring evening such as this it really seemed that I hadn’t a care in the world and nothing more pressing to do than savor life through mussels and Leffe and watch lovers argue over demis and cigarettes. Time to forget the exams I should be reading for; time to forget that all of this will soon be finished and that I’ll have to leave this unreality and all its paradoxes, beauty, and splendor.

-Kelly Walsh, Teaching Assistant in French Studies, Graduate Student in Comparative Literature

French and Italian Studies Advisory Boards

We would like to thank the French and Italian Studies Advisory Boards for their continued hard work!

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Thank you for your support!